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Spalding Rural District Council

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1955

Warners (Midlands) Ltd., Printers, Bourne.

SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Vice-Chairman : Mr. H. G. Witherington.

Members of the Council :

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Mr. T. Atkinson
Mr. H. K. Braybrooks
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Mr. H. E. Sneath
Mr. T. A. Warren
Mr. A. E. Woodhead

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Staff of the Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—
R. Miller, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR—
F. Luker, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS—

H. Todd, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.
W. E. Farley, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.

PUPIL SANITARY INSPECTOR—B. J. Saunders.

GENERAL CLERK—D. C. Joseph.

Spalding Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Priory Road,
Spalding.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Spalding Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for 1955, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The urgent housing problem which faced the District after World War II, has, to a large extent, been solved. Worn out property must now be dealt with and no obstacle should be permitted to delay this important work.

I appreciate the co-operation and courtesy of the Chairman of the Council, and of the Public Health Committee and of the members, and the work of the staff of this Department during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. MILLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 87,758 acres.

The resident population (1951 census) is 18,723.

The average population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 18,920.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is distributed as follows :

Cowbit	197
Crowland	963
Deeping St. Nicholas	539
Donington	699
Gosberton	750
Moulton	862
Pinchbeck	1193
Quadring	339
Surfleet	345
Weston	457
	6344

The rateable value of the district is £52,954 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £197.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

	M	F	Total
Live Births (Legitimate) ...	164 ...	140 ...	304
,, ,, (Illegitimate) ...	4 ...	4 ...	8
	168	144	312

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population — 16·15.

This figure is the corrected figure allowing for the age and sex composition of the population to secure comparability between local birth rates, the comparability factor for this district being ·98.

	M	F	Total
Still Births (Legitimate) ...	2 ...	1 ...	3
,, ,, (Illegitimate) ...	1 ...	— ...	1
	3	1	4

Still Birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births — 12·65.

Deaths.

	M	F	Total
Deaths from all causes ...	91 ...	90 ...	181

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population — 9·65.

This figure has been adjusted for transfers in and out of the district and, using the comparability factor of 1·01 supplied by the Registrar General, has been corrected to allow for the age and sex composition of the population in order to secure comparability between local death rates.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—24 (males 14 ; females 10)
Deaths from Measles (all ages) nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion — nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	4 ...	3 ...	7
Illegitimate ...	1 ...	— ...	1
	5	3	8

Death rates of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	25.64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.02
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	125.00

NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Death rates of infants under 4 weeks of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	19.23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.73
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

	Spalding Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate	16.15	15.0
Death Rate	9.65	11.7
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year	25.64	24.9

The Vital Statistics relating to Spalding Rural District compare favourably with the National figures. The Birth Rate is higher, and the Death Rate lower, than the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

The Infantile Mortality rate is still higher than the rate for England and Wales, but shows a great reduction in comparison with the annual rates for preceding years in this District.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other diseases.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease :

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, 455 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Disease	Cases Notified		
	Total	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	27	16	11
Whooping Cough	52	25	27
Measles	364	182	182
Pneumonia	9	6	3
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Para Typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1	1
	455	231	224

Comments :

Two cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified and confirmed in the District during the year. Whilst this number need not cause undue alarm, it must be remembered that for every case which is notified, it is probable that at least one hundred people have been infected with the virus. The possibilities are, therefore, serious, and, given infection, with other factors co-existing, such as a large group of physically exhausted and debilitated children, a serious outbreak could occur.

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Mening-ococcal Infection	Acute Polio-myelitis
Under 1 year	—	6	5	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 years	3	10	54	1	—	—	—
3 to 4 ,,	3	9	88	1	—	—	—
5 to 9 ,,	15	25	207	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 ,,	5	1	5	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 ,,	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 ,,	—	—	1	4	—	—	2
45 to 64 ,,	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	1	2	—	1	—	—
Total	27	52	364	9	1	—	2

Incidence of Infectious Disease in recent years

Disease		Year					
		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	Cases	24	18	5	19	43	27
	Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Cases	415	195	53	347	5	364
	Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	Cases	6	89	49	65	14	52
	Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Myelitis	Cases	2	1	—	1	1	2
	Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisations for the year 1955 (Diphtheria).

Between the 1st January, 1955 and the 31st December, 1955, 199 children under five years of age, and 44 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, received a primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 251 children were given a " booster " or secondary injection.

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentage of the child population immunised at any time during the years 1941-1955 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5-14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough ...	75	19.6	1205	78.4	3052	78.9
Spalding Rural ...	49	15.5	964	81.0	2482	79.8
Boston Rural ...	63	17.6	1052	74.7	2692	78.4
East Elloe Rural ...	65	21.3	1160	76.3	2887	77.6
Spalding Urban ...	41	17.9	707	82.8	1794	82.7

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

		M.	F.	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/55.	Pulmonary	33	21	54
	Non-pulmonary ...	1	4	5
Cases removed from the Register as cured during 1955	Pulmonary	—	1	1
	Non-pulmonary ...	—	1	1
Cases removed from the Register due to diagnosis not being confirmed during 1955	Pulmonary	—	—	—
	Non-pulmonary ...	—	—	—
Cases removed from Register due to removal from the District during 1955	Pulmonary	1	1	2
	Non-pulmonary ...	1	—	1
Cases removed from the Register due to death during 1955	Pulmonary	3	1	4
	Non-pulmonary ...	—	—	—

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1955

Age group	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pul.		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55 years	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	6	1	—	3	1	—	—

DETAILS OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1949-1955

Year	Cases at 31st December		Deaths during year	
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1949	61	31	3	0
1950	62	29	3	0
1951	51	16	6	0
1952	54	21	0	1
1953	54	14	5	0
1954	48	5	1	0
1955	54	5	3	1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955

		M.	F.	Total
1.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	1	4
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	0	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lungs Bronchus ...	3	2	5
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	0	4
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6	13
15.	Leucaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions or nervous system ...	13	12	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	14	16	30
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	5	0	5
20.	Other heart diseases	9	20	29
21.	Other circulatory diseases	1	3	4
22.	Influenza	1	3	4
23.	Pneumonia	4	0	4
24.	Bronchitis	4	3	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	0	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasis and prostrate	2	0	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ...	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	3	1	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	15	22
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
34.	All other accidents	3	0	3
35.	Suicide	3	2	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	All cases	91	90	181

The following figures and details have been collated for me by the Staff of the Department.

Visits.

The following table shows the number of visits made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Subject of Visits	Initial Visits	Routine or revisits
Housing defects	137	182
Water supplies, water samples	47	19
Drainage nuisances	71	39
Refuse nuisances	12	1
Overcrowding	4	0
Moveable dwellings, camps	19	11
Fried fish shops	3	9
Ice cream premises, Ice cream samples ...	1	6
Bakehouses	0	5
Food preparing premises, foodshops ...	9	7
Factories and Workplaces	0	11
Public Conveniences	1	64
Scabies and Vermin	2	2
Infectious diseases and food poisoning ...	74	26
Disinfection after infectious disease	9	0
Rats and mice	14	6
Disinfestation	8	0
Drain tests	126	241
Sewerage Schemes (Housing Sites)	2	19
Crowland Sewerage Scheme	37	112
Refuse Schemes	6	6
Night soil and cesspool emptying service ...	10	5
Slaughterhouses ; meat inspection	1509	0
Building licences	0	0
Housing Act 1949	107	212
Miscellaneous	131	48

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied from the Council's mains in each parish :—

Parish	Dwellings in Valuation List	Dwellings Supplied	Population Supplied
Cowbit	197	189	605
Crowland	963	859	2749
Deeping St. Nicholas ...	539	432	1382
Donington	699	643	2057
Gosberton	750	628	2009
Moulton	862	645	2064
Pinchbeck	1193	1050	3360
Quadring	339	283	906
Surfleet	345	308	986
Weston	457	410	1312
	6344	5447	17430

The percentage of dwellings supplied is 85.9%.

WATER SAMPLES

Private Supplies.

37 samples of water from private wells and cisterns were submitted for bacteriological analysis. 20 of the samples were reported as unsatisfactory and appropriate action was taken in each case to ensure that a satisfactory supply was made available to each property.

Public Supplies.

151 samples of water were taken by the staff of the Water Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological analysis with the following results :—

Remarks of Analyst	BORE			
	Deeping St. James	Deeping St. N'las	Don-ington	Pinch-beck
Highly Satisfactory	50	22	26	48
Satisfactory	—	—	—	3
Suspicious	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	1	—	1

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

Details of work done during the year are as follows :—

Cesspools	Vault Closets	Cisterns, tanks, etc.
1,967	504	38

On 99 occasions the cesspool machines were used to remove sludge from the settlement and humus tanks at the sewage disposal works on the housing estates. In addition the collection and disposal of pail closet contents has been maintained throughout the year.

Salvage collections have been maintained during the year and the sale of materials realised £1,741/12/3 which is an increase over the previous year's total.

The refuse collection scheme has operated during the year without any major alteration. The area of collection has again been increased slightly by small alterations of the routes to bring in outlying properties.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

There are no industrial factories in the area which is almost 100% agricultural in character. The premises in the list of factories and workplaces are composed of village blacksmiths, carpenters, bakers and similar premises. They are in the main family businesses and present no serious problem in administration.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk Distributors.

There are only three retail distributors of loose milk operating in the area ; two being producer-retailers. In all other cases milk sold by retail is designated milk in bottles.

Designated Milk.

The following annual licences to use special designations in relation to milk sold in the district were issued :

	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised Milk 6	3
Sterilised Milk 13	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk 4	0
T.T. (Pasteurised) 1	3

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	Exact figures unknown				
Number inspected	1862	37	11	1791	6698
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	2	2	3	1	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	383	—	4	39	683
Percentage of carcases affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	20.38%	—	63.64%	2.23%	10.42%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	7	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	133	—	—	—	30
Percentage of carcases affected with Tuberculosis	7.47%	—	—	—	.45%

In view of the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1954, all slaughtermen licenced prior to the commencement of the Act had their licences terminated by September 30th and were re-licensed for a period not exceeding twelve months, instead of the usual three years.

RODENT CONTROL

		Type of Property				
		Local Authority	Dwelling-Houses	Agricul-tural	Other Properties	Total
Total No. of properties in the District		29	6344	1772	742	8887
No. of properties inspected.	Following Complaints	3	212	53	6	274
	Otherwise	26	1924	560	169	2675
No. of properties found to be infested with rats	Major	6	109	60	7	182
	Minor	19	605	181	47	852
No. of properties found to be infested with mice		—	4	—	4	8
No. of infested properties treated		25	365	2	12	404
No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act	Requiring treatment	—	—	—	—	—
	Requiring structural works	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases in which work was carried out in default		—	—	—	—	—
Legal proceedings		—	—	—	—	—
No. of " Block " control schemes carried out		22				

Details of meat and offals condemned are contained in the following list :

Article Condemned	Disease or condition found
1 Cow carcase and offals	Septic Metritis
2 Cow carcases and offals	Generalised Tuberculosis
7 Carcases of Beef and offals	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 Cow carcase and offals	Johnes Disease and General Dropsy
1 Carcase of Beef and offals	Bacterial Necrosis and Jaundice
1 Carcase of Beef and offals	Multiple septic abscesses of liver, diaphram, Septic Peritonitis, Localised Dropsy of hindquarter and malnutrition.
1 Calf carcase	Emaciation and septic infection of the thymus gland and vertebrae.
2 Calf carcases and offals	Immaturity and Generalised Oedema
1 Porkette Pig and offals	Swine Erysipelas
2 Pig carcases and offals	Septic Peritonitis
2 Pig carcases and offals	Gut oedema
2 Sow Pigs and offals	Generalised Dropsy and Jaundice.
8 Pig carcases	Oedematous and unwholesome
1 Sheep carcase	Generalised Oedema
Hindquarter of Beef	Bruised and Oedematous
Forequarter of Beef	Tuberculosis
Part carcase of Beef, udder flanks, kidneys and fat, thin skirt, liver	Peritonitis and Localised Dropsy.
702 lbs. Beef trimmings	Bruised and Oedematous
1 Side of Pork	Purulent Abscesses
309 lbs. Pork Trimmings	Bruised and Oedematous
Part leg of Pork and Trimmings	Swine Erysipelas
20 lbs. Shoulder of Bacon	Decomposition
35 lbs. Brisket of Beef	Tuberculosis
1 Tin of pears	Leaking tin
1 6 lb. tin of Corned Beef	Holed Tin

The following offals were condemned for various reasons too numerous to be set out in detail :

170 Beasts Livers
147 Part Beast Livers
73 Heads and Tongues
10 Beasts Kidneys
5 Beasts Spleens
8 Beasts Thick Skirts
82 Beasts Lungs
1 Beast Tongue
5 Mesenteric Fat
1 Beast Shin
12 Beasts Thin Skirts
1 Beast Heart

262 Pigs Lungs
177 Pigs Livers
84 Pigs Hearts
43 Pigs Heads and Tongues
57 Part Pigs Livers
66 Pigs Kidneys
3 Pigs Pluck
18 Feet and Hocks
38 Sheep Livers
1 Calf Head
3 Calf Lungs
1 Sheep Lungs

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Eight beasts were found to be affected with cysts of the tapeworm Taenia Saginata. These were consigned to " deep freeze " for a period of not less than three weeks.

HOUSING

Nuisances.

94 complaints of inadequate water supplies, housing defects, drainage and refuse nuisances were investigated during the year and informal notices were served in each case.

Slum Clearance. Housing Act, 1936.

During the year a total of 27 individual unfit houses were reported to the Council under the provisions of Section 11 and 28 notices of " time and place " served.

7 demolition orders were made, 13 undertakings were accepted from owners (10 undertakings not to re-let and 3 undertakings to repair). 9 closing orders were made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953.

Improvement Grants. Housing Act, 1949.

Informal Inspections	85
Houses inspected in full detail	67
Formal applications for improvement grant ...	33
Improvement grants approved	22

This work continues to form a major part of the work of the Department. The standard of " improved " houses has been maintained at a level equivalent to that set by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the early stages of the work. Good liasion is maintained between the Department and the Regional Office of the Ministry, whose Officers are always helpful.

Overcrowding.

No new cases of overcrowding were reported and no overcrowded families were re-housed by the Council during the year.

There is no serious overcrowding problem in the district.

New Houses.

A total of 74 houses were completed on the Council's estates during the year and a further 48 were commenced of which 6 had reached roof level at the end of the year.

30 dwellings were erected by private developers and a further 26 were commenced.